

Message Text

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63

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

SCI-06 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 AF-10

ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 INRE-00 SSO-00 DRC-01 /145 W

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O 181917Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4745

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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IO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM

GENEVA FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOREY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG

SUBJ: ECOSOC - ACC REPORT ON INFORMATION SYSTEMS

REF: STATE 135955; GENEVA 3921; GENEVA A-217

1. USYG DAVIDSON DURING COURSE OF MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT AND MISOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS SERIOUS CONCERN OVER US/DUTCH RESOLUTION RECENTLY SUBMITTED IN ECOSOC ON SUBJECT. DAVIDSON WAS JOINED BY SLAUGHTER OF HIS OFFICE. DAVIDSON'S OFFICE AT REQUEST OF UN OFFICE GENEVA FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR UN ON SUBJECT RESOLUTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 34 OF ECOSOC RULES OF PROCEDURE. COST ESTIMATES FOR UN WOULD BE: (A) UP TO \$400,000 TO PREPARE INVENTORY OF UN PROJECTS FOR INPUT TO CORE, (B) \$500,000 TO \$1,000,000 TO MAINTAIN INVENTORY BASED ON COST TO BE INCURRED BY UN HEADQUARTERS, UNIDO, UNCTAD, UNOG AND EACH REGIONAL COMMISSION; AND (C) INITIAL INSTALLATION COSTS TO DESIGN SYSTEM, PROVIDE STAFF, ETC., OF ABOUT \$1,000,000. FOR UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE, DAVIDSON ESTIMATES THAT TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE CORE, ANNUAL COSTS LIKELY TO BE THE NEIGHBORHOOD

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OF \$2,000,000.

2. DAVIDSON QUESTIONED WISDOM OF RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH ELABORATE CORE MECHANISM WITHOUT FIRST DETERMINING ITS UTILITY, COMPETENCE OF ORGANIZATIONS TO USE AND MAINTAIN SYSTEM, ITS DESIGN, COSTS, ETC. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WITH THIS APPROACH END-RESULT IS NOT ONLY LIKELY TO BE EXCESSIVELY COSTLY, BUT SYSTEM WOULD NOT MEASURE UP TO EXPECTATIONS OF GOVERNMENTS. WHILE SUPPORTING NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN UN FAMILY OF COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM, DAVIDSON SAID THAT WISER COURSE WOULD BE FOR ECOSOC TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT OF A UN INFORMATION SYSTEM, ESTABLISH CONTENT OF CORE AS DRAWN FROM US/DUTCH DRAFT RES, AND ASK IOB TO PREPARE A DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO ECOSOC NEXT SUMMER. WHILE THIS WOULD RESULT IN A YEAR'S DELAY IN ESTABLISHING CORE, DAVIDSON MAINTAINED STRONGLY SUCH A DELAY IN LONG RUN WOULD BE BENEFICIAL SINCE UN SYSTEM AND MEMBER STATES WOULD THEN HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF CORE ITSELF AS WELL AS COSTS AND BENEFITS TO MEMBER STATES.

3. DAVIDSON INTENDS TO TELEPHONE GENEVA TODAY TO DISCUSS QUESTION WITH NARASIMHAN AND STRESS TO LATTER HIS RESERVATIONS ABOUT US/DUTCH RES. NARASIMHAN IN TURN WILL BE EXPECTED TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO ECOSOC SETTING FORTH SYG'S RESERVATIONS AND IN ADDITION TO PRESENT FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS WHICH ARE BEING CABLED TO GENEVA FROM DAVIDSON THIS AFTERNOON.

4. DAVIDSON EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT USG WITH ITS LONG EXPERIENCE IN FIELD OF INFORMATIONAL COMPUTERS WOULD SUBMIT RES WHICH ON BASIS HIS EXPERIENCE HE VIEWS AS CONCEPTUALLY UNSOUND AND NOT LIKELY IN REAL TERMS TO RESULT IN DESIRED END-PRODUCT. DAVIDSON REQUESTED THAT ABOVE VIEWS BE CONVEYED URGENTLY TO DEPARTMENT AND ECOSOC DEL.

5. MISSION SUGGESTS CONSIDER POSTPONING FINAL ACTION BY ECOSOC ON US/DUTCH DRAFT RES UNTIL EXPECTED STATEMENT BY NARASIMHAN IS REPORTED BY ECOSOC DEL AND ANALYZED IN DEPT IN ORDER TO DETERMINE WHETHER DRAFT RES SHOULD BE AMENDED IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE ANY OR ALL OF DAVIDSON'S CONCERNS. MISSION BELIEVES DAVIDSON HAS RAISED IMPORTANT POINTS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE DISREGARDED. OUT OF HAND.
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